

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 000320

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/01/2007

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [NI](#)

SUBJECT: NIGERIA: PRESIDENT OBASANJO SUMMARIZES HIS
ZIMBABWE VISIT

REF: HARARE 200

Classified by Ambassador Howard F. Jeter. Reasons 1.5 (b)
and (d).

11. (C) On January 25, during a brief pull aside prior to a larger meeting on a just established USAID program for agricultural assistance, President Obasanjo briefed me on his January 20-21 trip to Zimbabwe.

12. (C) Obasanjo recounted that his discussion with Mugabe focused mainly on the need for the Zimbabwean to clean up the political arena. The President told Mugabe that he would like to be able to support him in the Commonwealth but could not help Mugabe in that assembly unless Mugabe pledged himself and the GOZ to free and fair elections in March.

13. (U) Mugabe did not voice opposition to fair elections and indicated his understanding of Nigeria's position regarding the Commonwealth, Obasanjo said. Attempting to show his commitment to a free and fair contest but maintaining his animus towards London, Mugabe stated he would allow all EU and Commonwealth election observers, except for the UK, Obasanjo noted. The door would also open to the foreign press to cover the election, except for UK-based media.

14. (C) Obasanjo reported that the Africa Union would form a Foreign Ministers task force, which would presumably include Nigeria's Lamido, to meet on Zimbabwe. The group would meet February 10-11.

15. (C) In an effort to ease political tensions and to give the public a sign that reconciliation was possible, Obasanjo tried to broker a meeting between Mugabe and MDC leader Tsvangirai; however, Mugabe rejected the offer.

SIPDIS

16. (C) Obasanjo concluded the pull aside, stating that he briefed Tsvangirai on his meeting with Mugabe and that the MDC leader seemed pleased.
Jeter